DISTORT RALEIGH



HOUSE SHOWS 2001-2011

ISSUE #1





HISTORY

Raleigh is a town that has a rich history of punk/hardcore. I cannot attest to the goings-on in the late 80's or even the whole of the 90's for the area. In the '90s, I was in a street punk band in a town two hours away and was too young to drive. My knowledge of punk prior to my arrival stems from some off-handed web searches that ultimately led me to the writings of Brian Walsby. He has since started posting blogs of early days and the fifth edition of his book covers early days as per his experiences with COC, Honor Role, Ugly Americans, and the bands that were around at the time. The Brewery, which is currently a den for terrible breakdown mosh metalcore acts, used to be the hardcore mecca back in the day. Also, outside of the scope of this zine and far before my time, was a venue called the Fallout Shelter that hosted some important acts, but it seemed open to different types of music as it also hosted raves and new wave shows. What little I could find online about old houses led me to an address of a place which used to harbor punk shows up the street from me and I did myself the favor of trying to find it. The only thing I found was a big satellite dish on that road and a bunch of houses that looked like any other houses. Not much history left there, only suburbia. I also had heard word when I lived off Ashe Avenue that Youth of Today had once played a show somewhere on the block. Not much is left of the old days of Raleigh. Houses have been run down or gentrified, venues have come and gone, and so begins the chapter of Raleigh history for which I can actually give my perspective.

ASHE AVENUE

I moved to Raleigh in 2001 for college. I had gone to school for a semester at Virginia Tech and had missed the punk train up there - a year or two before someone had fallen out a window at a house that had shows called the Solar Haus - so there was very little music left in the town. Upon moving to Raleigh, I didn't find punk right away. The folks I met on campus were really into the upswing of the whole emoviolence/screamo trend and I found myself the quiet friend among the folks who played in This Hero Dies, Witchcraft by a Picture, and Black Castle. Fast forward quite a few months and I was walking with my friends over to a house they were about to move into at 203 Ashe Avenue. I remember that the house had just had its carpets steam cleaned and because of that, it was really musty and dank in there. The upstairs had a bar in one of the rooms that had a big hole in it which in my brain seemed a perfect place for a fish tank... so the fact the carpet was soaking my shoes with the clean/musty/half mildewed carpet seemed to affirm that. They started doing shows at the house in the dirt-ladened basement. Mainly screamo bands flitted through the ruddy basement... Ultra Dolphins, Order of the Dying Orchid, our friend Charlie's band Adonis Battlefield, and quite a few others. These were the first house shows I had been to and kind of shaped my ideas of punk. Shows were donation-only shows and they were put together from a mixture of word of mouth, the internet, and Chris Carraway who had a big hand in shows for the next few years. A house right across the street also had a few shows near the demise of 203. 210 Ashe Avenue where Mikey lived, had Kaospilot, Stop It!, and a scattered array of different genre acts play in their living room.



KAOSPILOT AT 210 ASHE



BROWE AND ZACH AT 203 ASHE



CHRIS CARRAWAY OF THIS HERO DIES



BRIAN, ME, GEOFF, CHRIS, MIKE



MONSTERXCREW



RICH NEY OF STREET SHARKS



ADONIS BATTLEFIELD AT 203 ASHE



AFTER CLIMBING THE AGROCRAG

THE POSI-DOME



As Ashe Avenue shows started waning and eventually the people who put on shows moved out, a new house came together at 2211 Everette Street. Two or three houses up from the post office was a house which rotated residents over the course of a few years but put on even better shows than I had previously attended. The first show ever there was mid-year 2005 when The Holy Mountain played. They sounded totally different than they do now. This is before their d-beat heavy crust sound, back when they were fresh from being ex-Combatwoundedveteran in an emo-violence laden-type of way and when Eric the Red was still in the band. At the time I had a penchant for hard-to-find vinyl and scooped up some screamo eBay gold at this show. Numerous shows popped up for about a year and, for the lack of much else to do, I was at most of them. I worked weekends and went to school during the week but I seemed to have plenty of free time.

One of the most memorable shows was when Assholeparade and Shitstorm played there later in 2005. I had met the drummer of Shitstorm down in Florida a year or two before and his other bands had also played at this house (first Tunes for Bears to Dance to then Tyranny of Shaw; he is currently in the doom pop band Torche). Assholeparade was a band I've always loved, too, so I was excited to see them for the first time.

The Posi-Dome was the first time I remembered the local band Street Sharks playing. Street Sharks played quick and dirty thrash punk and that was quite a change from the local screamo bands I had been used to. One important show I remember was the newer lineup of Direct Control where they wore b-boy outfits a la Ali G and fake mustaches to extend their eyebrowns into unibrows. At the same show I saw Joel from Street Sharks and Brandon from Direct Control's band which was a highly Japanese hardcore-inspired band called Abikyoukan. Another show I remember had to have been the loudest show I had been to at the time. Kayo Dot had filled a whole wall full of amps and turned them all the way up. How the cops didn't get called on this show... I have no clue. One last crucial show was one where two Savannah sluggers came through together, Kylesa and Baroness. Baroness had played a house in Greensboro when I first saw them and I vaguely remember them playing at 210 Ashe, so they had developed major love in Raleigh.









THRASHITORIUM



Off Wake Forest Road and around the corner of Young Street, The Thrashitorium started having some amazing shows for grittier and heavier hitting music. This was the first time I met Hank Williams. Hank continues to book major shows in Raleigh. As a resident at the house, he managed to bring acts as big as Asschapel to the small house. I helped put together a killer show with him at the house for Magrudergrind, Bail Out, I Object, and Black SS in August 2006. This and the Asschapel show were definitely the highlights of the house for me. I know I'm missing out on huge blocks of shows. Off the top of my head, the only other show I remember is Cough from RVA playing as their old lineup, and the singer was so drunk he couldn't stand up. I'll have to revisit this house in a future, because I remember being at this house quite a few nights to see bands play.



ASSORTED HOUSES

Libertalia Infoshop - 824 Chamberlain St - Ampere show, Des Ark show, Street Sharks / Savage Brewtality show.

Horne Street House - 411 Horne St - First show was a The Set Up show, biggest show was Kodan Armada, CTTS, How To Beat A Dead Horse, and Choke The Rivers With Our Dead.

Cole Street House - 406 Cole St - House where my friends Chris Carraway and Jesse Beard lived. Chris booked a Baroness show, a Hot Cross & Transistor/Transistor, A Day in Black in White show, and I Would Set Myself on Fire For You.

Wolves D.I.N. - An odd place, not quite a house but a basement *cafeteria at NCSU's campus* - only show I remember is one random Racebannon show in 2006. I think they had some noise acts come through after that. I hear they still do some shows down there now on rare occasions.

Ah Peele - Another place that was not quite a house - this is an art gallery located off Capital Blvd that had a stage out back. They had some amazing shows, like a matinee show with Pollution. Venue fell off the DIY scene when the owner backed out of having the Slang show there at the last minute.

Doug's Land - Renegade outdoor shows before house was built, then one or two shows since.

Ferrier Street House - Rapider than Horsepower played, as well as a few noise shows. Short lived.



FLINT PLACE

This will be the most sentimental house for me. I lived in 1306 Flint Place for five years and I got to know everyone in both 1304 and 1306 very well, too well in some cases. 1306 in this case doesn't matter. We were called "The Emo House" by our neighbors because at any party or show, everyone would hunker on the porch and act like we weren't having a good time. Our house was a secondary bathroom and a living breathing dirty dishes art installation (much sarcasm, but true).
So 1304 Flint had a rotating cast but the largest personality at the house was Hans. Hans is probably around 35 now and is a legit landscape architect for a major firm in Brooklyn, living the dream I assume. He is a fun-loving guy and was sort of obsessed with throwing huge parties. He invited everyone he liked and respected and would even invite people off the street to come partake in the keg he bought just so that everyone could have a fun time. Before I lived on the block he threw the infamous pirate party in which the only band that played was a pirate themed band named Scurvy. The party was even so authentic that it included a kiddie pool with a plank you could walk. The pirate party was talked about for years to come. Other themed parties included a shower party, which included a hose mounted from the roof; a Krampus party; and a party to outdo the pirate party which was the Zombie Surfer Sluts vs. Robotic Cowboy Vampires. So you get the vibe, fun loving guy who has quite an obsession for throwing big shindigs so that people had fun. This drive he had lead up to great punk shows.
The more mellow shows I remember at their house included a Kind Of Like Spitting show, a Lemuria show, and an acoustic show set up by Aaron Smith. (Funny sidenote about the acoustic show: I saw the scariest possum shimmy up the cable wire on the back of their house during the bonfire/show and I was flipping out and no one else saw it as I watched in horror.) I booked a handful of shows back when I was 16 and 17 and had given that stress up, but I did book three shows at Flint... two I Object shows and a Full Nelson show. All three of these shows were amazing. Double Negative played quite a few shows at the house, probably my favorite times seeing them play. Andrew Breeland, the handyman of the house, constructed a moving papier-mâché spider figure on the fan and it saw its final day at a Double Negative show. Some of the Emo House ended filtering over to 1304 and shows slowed. The end of it all was when a couple bought the house from the owner to fix it up. I can say the final days of the house included a lot of spray paint to help the old tenants deal with losing such an important domicile, I was not involved in these vandalous acts, no lie.


1306 FLINT PORCH


HANS


1304 RESIDENTS


FLINT PLACE FOLKS


CROSS LAWS

JANUARY 13TH
1304 FLINT PL
5DOLLARS

BUILDINGS TO DUST
HEAVY POLITICAL D-BEAT PUNK FROM GSO.

IN FIRST PERSON
EX-THE ASSISTANT - HARDCORE
THAT IS ALL OVER THE PLACE

HEARTFELT DISCORD
GORILLA BISCUITS-INFLUENCED MELODIC HARDCORE



PLUS INFO ON
THE GREEN SCARE
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SALE TO BENEFIT
POLITICAL PRISONERS
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FIREWORKS


PIRATE PARTY


PAXTON AND ZACH



MORGAN STREET

Morgan Street pops up from time to time, reincarnating itself and ultimately burying itself. Double Negative seemed to play most of the shows there in the past. Stripmines and Devour have played their fair number of show of shows there. For a little bit around 2009-2010, probably in its third form, it was called HxCPMF. Under that name, Ramming Speed played there, as did both Unholy Thoughts and Dry Spell. Also, Man Will Destroy Himself played an early Sunday matinee. The house threw raging Pollution / Leather show during which I spent the majority of the show on the back window roof with my old roommate, Jessica Domino, who has since moved to LA. The newest version of the house formed in mid 2011 and was called Axe Manor. The first and supposedly last show was Dodsfalla, Wall, and No Tomorrow.





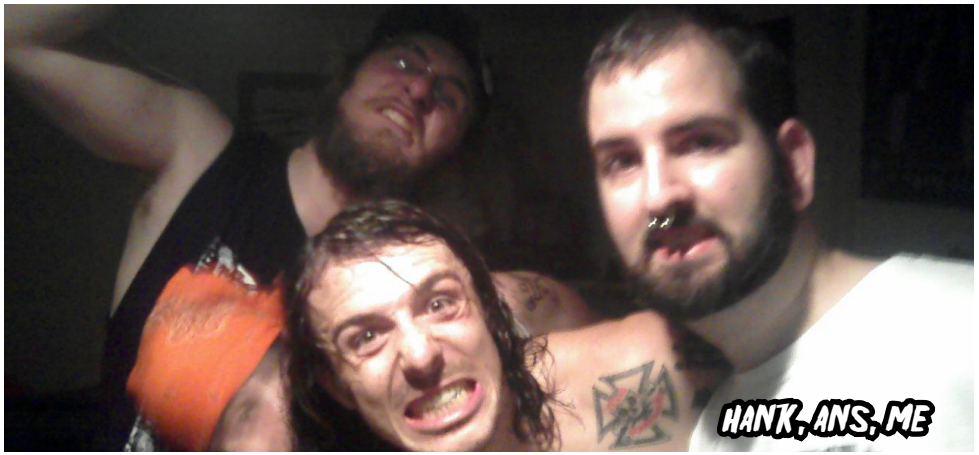


GSS HOUSE

In the timeline of houses, the GSS house popped up two years after the Posi-Dome stopped having shows. GSS stands for Gorman Street Sluts, who were a band when a few of these tenants lived on Gorman Street. Very similar to the other house in the way shows were put together but the GSS House had a major emphasis on punk. This was the greenhorns of punk bringing the scene back full force.
Memorable shows: Bloody Phoenix, Rabies, Get Rad, Government Warning, Driller Killer, Wasted Time, I Object, Kakistocracy, Destrux, Black SS, XBRAINIAX, Helldistort. They also hosted combination shows / parties like the Fourth of July cookout show with ANS and Canadian Riffle.
The house fell apart for hosting shows after a Government Warning / Annihilation Time show cost the residents about $800 in fines and court fees. The show to usher the house out of existence in 2007 was the Double Negative, Gorman Street Sluts, The Obtruders, Cloak/Dagger, and Cola Freaks. This was a pretty momentous show to celebrate closing its doors .

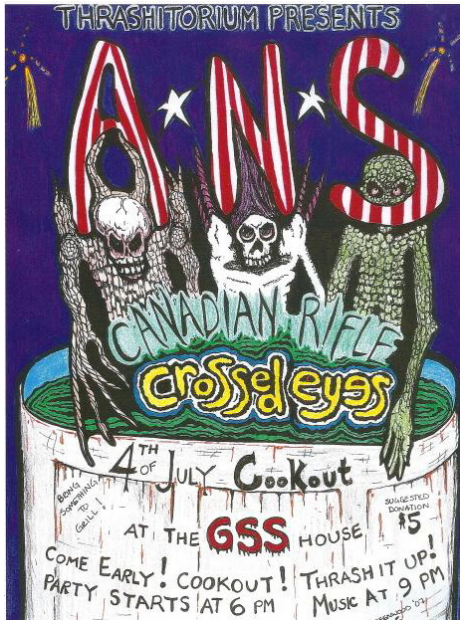









WASTED TIME

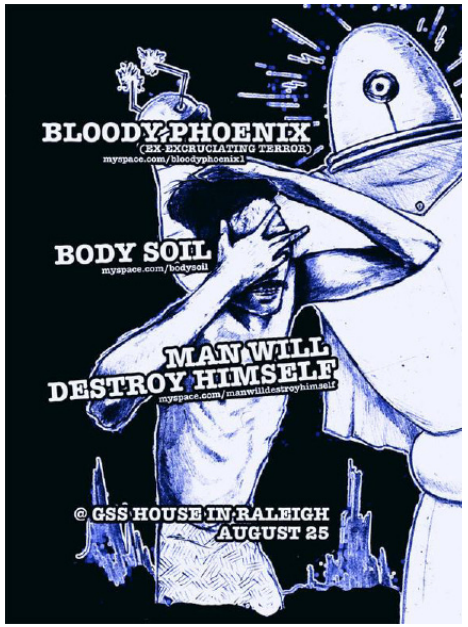

THRASHITORIUM PRESENTS
A.N.S
CANADIAN RIFLE
crossed eyes
4TH of JULY CooKout
AT THE GSS HOUSE
SUGGESTED DONATION $5
COME EARLY! COOKOUT! THRASH IT UP!
PARTY STARTS AT 6 PM
MUSIC AT 9 PM


ANNIHILATION TIME


CLAPPING ON THE CEILING


I OBJECT!


GOVERNMENT WARNING


BLOODY PHOENIX
(EX-EXCRUCIATING TERROR)
myspace.com/bloodyphoenix1
BODY SOIL
myspace.com/bodysoil
MAN WILL DESTROY HIMSELF
myspace.com/manwilldestroyhimself
@ GSS HOUSE IN RALEIGH
AUGUST 25


COLA FREAKS
WITH
CLOAK/DAGGER
DOUBLE NEGATIVE AND
GORMAN STREET SLUTS
THE OBSTRUDERS
LAST GSS HOUSE SHOW EVER
YARD SALE BEFORE THE SHOW
1114 KENT ST 8PM 5 BUCKS
SEPT 8TH


CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

DREGGS GROTTO

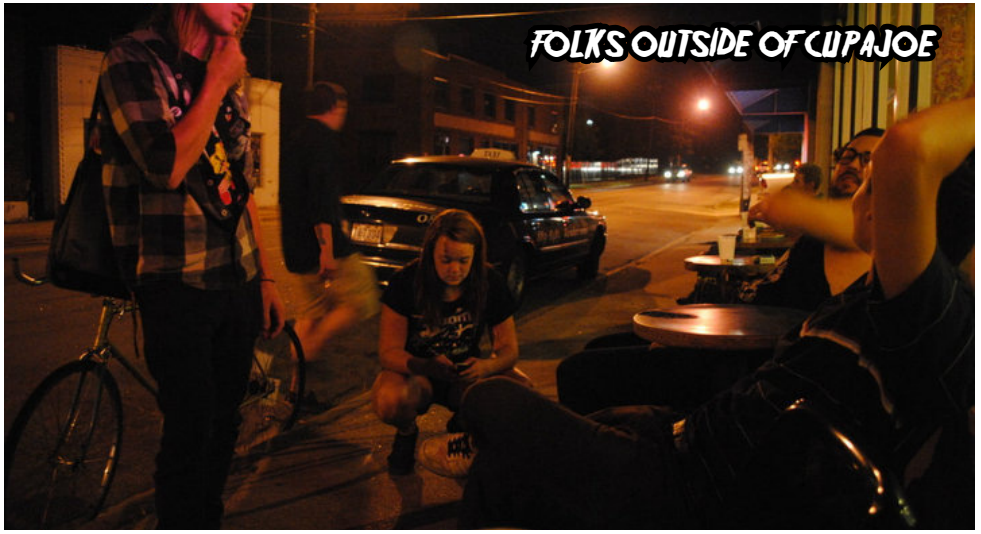
A very short-lived venue called Dreggs Grotto popped up. A big no thanks to the landlord kicking their tenants out at the last minute. The house had a huge basement, reeked of dogs, and it was located in a random place… up past Lions Park and across Raleigh Boulevard on 1114 King Charles Road. Dreggs Grotto will forever be immortalized by the magical secret show I got to experience... Corrosion Of Conformity. The show was only billed as Double Negative, Devour, and a special guest. A LOT of people missed out on this show because of that. Other awesome shows included Chest Pain, Big Eyes, No Tomorrow, Shoppers, and Old Painless. What I'll miss the most is the amazing pictures I'd get at this house. A new venue is slowly forming and will be called Dreggs grotto part deux.


DISCHARGE COVER BAND

KENT HOUSE

At the moment, it looks like this is the last man standing for house shows in Raleigh. The house is oddly located two or three houses down from the GSS House and is often called GSS2, although that name is shot down by the people living there. Ira Rogers lives in the house and books not only most of the good shows in Raleigh, but, obviously, most shows at his house. Kent House has harbored the likes of Worlds, Disciples Of Christ, Coke Bust, ANS, Burma (with me filling in on bass once), Backslider, Nimbux Terrifix, Javelina, Ramming Speed, Wormeaters, American Cheeseburger, Acid Reflux, and Deathrats.
This house will keep running strong I hope. The only downside I see is that they don't want shows during the week.


ACID REFLUX


FOLKS OUTSIDE OF CUPAJOE

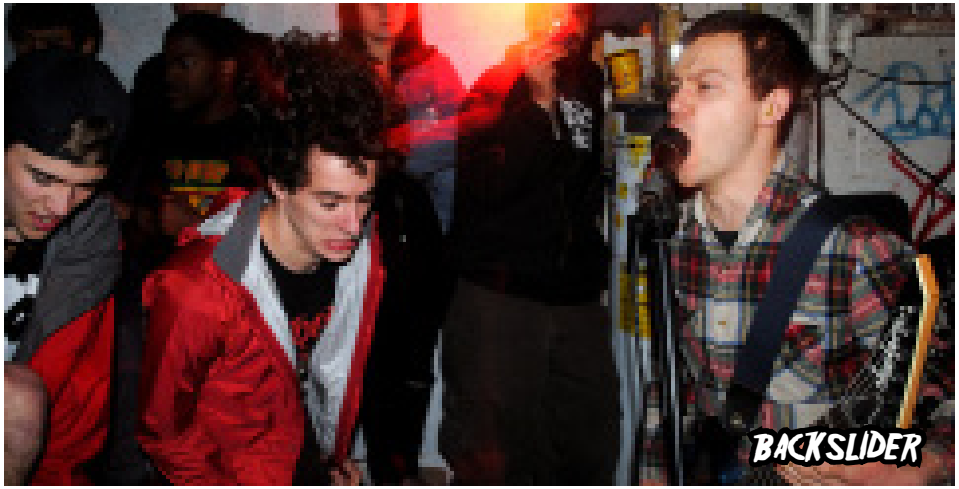

DEVOUR


ANS

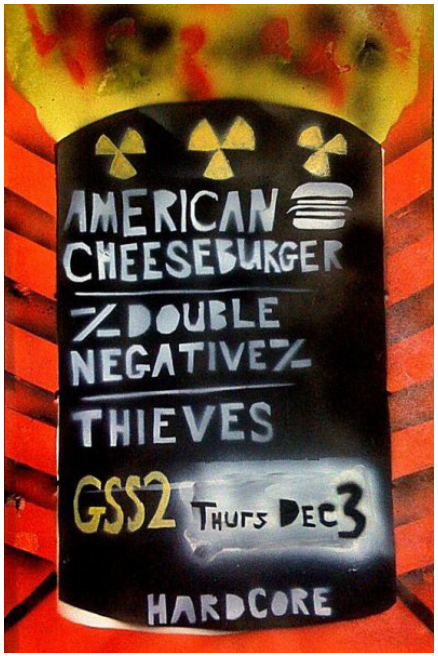

STRIPMINES


DISCIPLES OF CHRIST


RAMMING SPEED


BACKSLIDER









THANKS

Thanks to those who booked shows, namely Chris Carraway, Hank Williams, and Ira Rogers. Thanks to the people I took photos from, mostly Chris Carraway, Daniel Lupton, David Mirabedini, and me. Thanks also to Jace Kuhn for helping with the layout.

FINAL THOUGHT

Someone recently likened punk to folk music; everything tells a story and carries on a message. In that sense, it is pretty crucial to know your roots. I plan on finding more out about early Raleigh days in the future, maybe I'll write something more cohesive about what I've learned from them. What I've described in here are highlights of a ten year period of time… a lot more stories fall in the middle of this big, poorly constructed overview / narrative. There are many more stories to come that haven't happened yet.

To help you figure out more how I fit into this scene, my name is Will Butler and I used to run a distro out of my house called Stronghold Distro and I continue to run a record label out of my house for six of these years called To Live A Lie Records. North Carolina is still kind of on an upswing for shows. Most bands prefer to stop through Richmond, VA or skip over our town and make it down to Atlanta, GA. Hopefully this write-up will inspire people to do something big in someplace small or inspire the next generation of punk rock enthusiasts to put a show on in any space they can find.

If you liked what you read and you want to bug me, my email is wcbutler@gmail.com. Thanks! And don't for get to...

DISTORT RALEIGH!


PEACE ST.
EDENTON ST.
Capitol Square
Bapt.
MORGAN ST.
MARTIN
ST.
SOUTH
ST.
SMITHFIELD
ST.
Park